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Notes from KK4BK (Brian)

Dear SWARC members,

Here we are marching into the last month of the quarter. So, what you ask?

First off – the NC QSO party is March 1 from 10AM EST to 8PM EST (saved you from having to convert to Zulu time – you’re welcome) The South Wake ARC sponsors the Single-Op / Non NC / Phone (High Power) award. You can find out more at <https://ncqsoparty.org/>

The second quarter brings up a lot of HAM Radio activity. Things like:

- SWARC elections
- Dinner Service for the American Legion in June
- Summer Field Day
- Public Service Events
- and three monthly meetings.

Granted – most of that happens in June. But, Field Day this year is going to be a bit different. “The 7 P’s” apply this year – and if you don’t know what that is – come ask me at the meeting. :-)

You all have heard me on numerous occasions mention reaching out to those “OMs” you haven’t heard from in a while. I have to say – this



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week a conversation was being had on the “Morning Drive Time” about a member that hasn’t been around in some time. This fella ISN’T Exactly old, but he isn’t a spring chicken either (but who of us is now-a-days). The point is – age doesn’t matter – if you haven’t heard from a member or even someone who was active on a repeater and hasn’t been. Check on them.

Don’t forget -- Club Dues are ... Due. Your dues help with lots of activities within the club. Refer to the **MEMBERSHIP** header found below in the newsletter for instructions on how to become or renew a membership.

Please remember our fellow hams and family members who are dealing with various medical situations. Please reach out to these folks. A phone call or text can brighten their day and give them encouragement through their recovery.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, and Kenny, KJ4CVK.

Gary Plante, KO4LQX, reports:

Hope you and the gang are doing well.



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I'm having a battle with swelling and breathing again and had to go on more steroids, but so far things are improving. I will be having more scans at the end of March and will keep you posted.

Thanks,
Gary

Kenny, KJ4CVK, is in an assisted living facility, in Lillington.

de KK4BK (Brian)

Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Our March meeting will be a continuation of planning for summer field day.

The Wake County AUXCOMM Training Net will be moving over to the KQ4RCH 145.210 starting on March 5th, 2026. This Net is held every Thursday evening at 9:00 PM, and usually lasts around 30 minutes. The move to the 145.210 is to promote further participation from Wake and surrounding counties, and all are invited to participate. The purpose of this Net is to provide training and information related to emergency communications for the local Amateur radio community. The Net will include a weather briefing, announcements, AUXCOMM traffic (if any), and brief training.



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Don't forget we have plenty of raffle tickets for our annual fund raiser. Tickets can be obtained from any of officers. If you are unable to get to a monthly meeting to get your tickets, you can contact me and we can arrange the purchase of your tickets. You do not have to be present to win, but you will need to arrange pick-up for any prizes won. We also have SWARC T-shirts available. You can contact me for availability. Stay safe and stay warm, and don't forget to check on your family and neighbors during the cold.

Thank you again for your support,

73,

Rodney
KO4ZFO
South Wake ARC Vice-President

SWARC 4 FEB 2026 Meeting

This was a nicely attended meeting; there were eight, count them 8, pots of chili and no desserts, which is a first for this club. Rich (KZ4ET) and wife Jane's chili was voted best.



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The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Richard (KR4LH).

The auction was great fun—I've not heard such laughter and riotousness in a very long time at one of our meetings. Rodney, the auctioneer, was ably assisted and/or jeered by the attendees.

Attendees: Richard (KR4LH), Dave, (NW3U), Rich (KZ4ET) and wife Jane, Don (KN4OEY), Paul (KN4GNI), Brian (KK4BK) and Janet (KB4JSK), Mike (KD4OKR), Tom (KC2QVD), Rodney (KO4ZFO, Bill (KK4QDZ), Steve (WB4SMS), Steve (NC4SW), John (WB4UFO), Mike (K4MWG), Greg (N9PGG), David (KQ4ZLK), Tom (KC2QVD), and guests, Erick and Roger (KB8DWU).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Christy provided her report for this newsletter. February saw income of \$797.00 comprised of dues, a donation, 50-50 raffle proceeds and the returned check of \$650.00 from the repeater trustee. Expenses were \$22.73 for various fees. Balance at end of month was \$3,217.64.



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Public Service

To learn more about future events, you can go to <https://hpsnc.org/>. The public service season for 2026 will begin with the Odyssey of the Mind competition in early March.

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is very active and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS and SWARC websites.

MEMBERSHIP

It is now time to renew your membership, if you have not already done so. You can pay at a meeting or send a check to the PO Box – OR ->

We currently have a link on our website which allows you to pay your dues or make a donation. Please let us know when you pay online by emailing me, so that I can ensure your payment is marked either for dues or a donation. The link for SWARC dues is:

https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://square.link/u/h0LLrbD6?src=sms/

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received them. Also, you can now renew online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com. Make checks payable to



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South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 –
Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

NET REPORT

We will no longer be reporting monthly net numbers in the newsletter.
Very few net controls record their counts, so numbers could be significantly higher than what is recorded on the spreadsheet.

If you are a net control, please try to document your check-ins so that we can justify the trustee's provision of the repeater for our nets and other uses. **If you need help with the spreadsheet, send KR4LH a copy of your handwritten log and he will enter them. Text Richard at 830-515-9762 with a picture of your log.**

- Sunday evenings - KR4LH
- Monday evenings - KO4ZFO
- Tuesday evenings – KD4OKR
- Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights – KD4MC
- Thursday evenings – KN4OEY
- Friday evenings - NC4MP
- Saturday evenings – KK4BK



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Welcome to new substitute net controllers: CD Murphy (KM4IJK), Bryant Byrd (KQ4UHZ), Al Kinnamon (WA3JJG), Navin Kalicharan (KF4LFW) and Mark McFarland (KD7AAG).

Please contact Brian Knox (KK4BK), if you are interested in calling one or more nets. **If you are a scheduled net controller and you are not able to call your net, please reach out and ask someone else to call it for you!**

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.



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LINKS (if you have other links that you want added, send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars.net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Carolina 440 Network

www.carolina440.net

North Carolina Packet

www.ncpacket.com

TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)

www.tarpn.net

Useful Ham Info

www.torborg.com/a

Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts

www.fivecountyhre.org

Ham Study (Exam Tools)

www.hamstudy.org



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Due to formatting issues, I will forward the most recent ARRL News to all members, regardless of your membership in ARRL or not!

The following comments and information are extracted from our NC Section Manager's monthly newsletter.

REMINDERS ABOUT UPCOMING HAMFESTS

- CHARLOTTE – Cabarrus Arena and Event Center, 4751 Hwy 49 N., Concord, NC 28025. March 6-7 2026. This is one of the three large hamfests held each year in North Carolina. Information can be found at <https://charlottehamfest.org/> Forum, testing, flea market, and dealers.
- RARSFEST-Jim Graham Building, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh NC on April 4, 2026. This hamfests has equipment demos, license testing, speakers, food, air conditioned indoor space and a large indoor flea market. Info can be found at <https://www.rarsfest.org/>.
- Winston-Salem Spring Fest, held by the FORSYTH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ON April 25, 2026 Information can be found at <https://w4nc.com/hamfest/>
- DAYTON HAMVENTION – DAYTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Greene



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County Fair

and Expo Center, Xenia , Ohio. MAY 15-17, 2026. This is a large hamfest with exhibits and presentations located within several buildings. There is also a large outdoor flea market which has a reputation that if you are looking for a part or an older radio, if you can't find it at Dayton it probably can't be found anywhere.

Forums, demonstrations, EmComm vehicles, license testing, food, brand

new products shown by manufacturers reps, ARRL officials, FCC officials.

Info can be found at <https://hamvention.org/>

FIELD DAY

In order to emphasize skills and teamwork which would be needed during a

disaster, ARRL established FIELD DAY as a nationwide training session.

Some operators view Field Day as a contest and seek to make as many contest as possible within a 24 hour period over the last weekend in June. Others view Field Day as an opportunity to set up one or more stations, using emergency power and temporary antennas. For some ham

groups, becoming skilled in setting up stations that will be needed to provide communications when and where normal communications are disrupted, being asked to send simulated emergency messages



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emergency
agencies and Red Cross.

Field Day is 2026 will be held from 18:00 UTC Saturday to 20:59 UTC Sunday (June 27-28, 2026).

ARRL will soon publish rules as to transmitting power, publicity about Field Day, invitations to local officials and opportunities to have a GET ON THE AIR station so that persons without a license can learn about the excitement of operating and making contacts with other beginners while learning about disaster communications.

Clubs should make a special effort to get newly licensed hams on the air and to use their first Field Day as a learning experience that will stay with for as long as they remain interested in ham radio.

DMR TUTORIAL

I was multitasking while preparing this newsletter. Part of my time and attention was directed toward report about Winter Storm Fran that were carried on tv, electronic news as well as ham radio. I also listed to the PRN DMR system and shifted my attention between the storm and this newsletter.



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Listening to the DMR and watch the electronic log for the CBridge (server) that manages the connections on the NC/SC DMR system. I hope

that the following comments will be received as they are intended, which is to help recent DMR operators to learn how to make their radios most useful.

a. Go to the web site (https://ncprn.net/?page_id=12). Please remember

that only the repeaters listed on that page can be reached through the PRN system. If a repeater is not listed on that page, it most likely cannot be reached through the PRN system.

b. Listed along with the particular frequency for a PRN repeater, also shown are the talkgroups which are carried on that particular repeater.

c. PRN repeaters do not carry the many, many talkgroups which are part

of the Brandmeister network. The PRN system is not connected to the Brandmeister server or the TGIF network Both these non-PRN servers can

be reached with a hotspot through your portable radio and your home Wi-Fi network.



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d. Talkgroups, like Brandmeister 91 (Worldwide) that are not listed as being on the PRN repeater page will be rejected by the server and will not show up on the last heard listing and will not be passed on to Brandmeister.

YEAR OF THE CLUB ACTIVITIES

ARRL wishes to draw attention to and offer support to clubs during 2026.

The following activities are being undertaken:

- Affiliated clubs (which must have at least 50% of the club members belonging also to the ARRL) can apply for a special recognition if the club as either 75% or 90% of club members who belong to the ARRL.
- A special version of the Worked All States certificate (called the WAS-250 certificate) can be earned during 2026 (despite having already earned the normal WAS certificate previously). The WAS-250 Certificate celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.
- Related to the WAS-250 is a schedule that provides for each state to have stations on the air during two designated weeks during the year. North Carolina will have stations scheduled during the week of April 4 and August 30. North Carolina clubs which volunteer and are scheduled will operate with the special call W1AW/P4. More information will be



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discussed below.

- ARRL continues to offer special pricing to clubs that wish to purchase a selection of books focusing on ham radio for gifting to a public. School, or college library.

- An additional benefit from ARRL involves sharing of membership dues.

When a club collects membership renewals (\$5) or a new membership application (\$15) ARRL will rebate the appropriate amount back to the club in which the club collects applications and writes one check to the ARRL to cover the membership applications

- ARRL seeks information on non-emergency activities undertaken by you
r club. Go to <https://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-activity-report> and report on your club activities.

- ARRL seeks photos of club activities which will be consider for possible publication in QST or other ARRL media.

HELP WANTED

YEAR OF THE CLUB COORDINATOR – NC SECTION



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One or more volunteers are needed to coordinate the two weeks of operations by NC Section Stations that wish to operate during the week of April 4 or August 30. This involves receiving on-line requests and scheduling clubs to operate using W1AW/4.

The coordinator will receive requests from clubs to operate on particular bands, at agreed upon times and using certain modes. A computer program has been prepared to keep track of these operating parameters which will be published so operators across the country will be assured that North Carolina stations will be on the air and be contacted as distant operators seek to confirm contact with NC and earn credit for the WAS-250 Certificate. Please contact WA4NC@ARRL.ORG for further information.